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STAFF  
2002

Senator Frank Church, Chairman  
Select Committee to Study  
Governmental Operations With  
Respect to Intelligence Activities  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In your letter to me of November 14 you asked what steps the Executive Branch had taken to implement the provisions of Public Law 93-475, enacted in 1974, relating to the responsibility of the United States Ambassadors. That law amended the basic Department of State Authorization Act. (22 U.S.C. 2680A), and codified existing policy, as was noted by the report of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations: Section 8. Authority and Responsibility of Ambassadors. "This section, initiated by Senators Muskie and Case, enacts into law what has heretofore had only the force of executive directive. It formally vests in each American Ambassador to a foreign country full responsibility for the activities of all U.S. Government employees assigned to duty in that country, except personnel under the command of a United States area military commander. The section also contains a complementary provision which charges each agency having personnel in a foreign country with the responsibility of seeing that those personnel are responsive to the Ambassador.

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and that the Ambassador is kept fully informed of their activities. It thus imposes a mutual responsibility: upon the Ambassador to seek information and to exercise command, and upon others to provide information and to respond to his directives."

The intent of this legislation has been implemented for years under Presidential direction in President Kennedy's letter of May 29, 1961, President Nixon's similar letter of December 9, 1969, and the Department of State Circular Airgram CA-6693 - December 17, 1969. Moreover, the Department of State informed all major embassies of the enactment of this legislation, Public Law 93-475, by Airgram 5052 of July 25, 1975.

Clearances:

Gerald Ford

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